

East with New York
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THE PIANOFORTE PEDALS

BY

WM. D. ARMSTRONG

(A. G. O.)

PRICE \$ 1.50 NET



BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL

NEW YORK

24 WEST 20TH STREET

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INTRODUCTION

In view of the fact that there has been much material written on the use of the Pianoforte Pedals, the author has attempted to arrange in a concise form some of the principles necessary for the Pianist to know, so that clearness and pure tone-quality, two important elements in artistic piano playing, may be comprehended and obtained.

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THE PIANOFORTE PEDALS.

CHAPTER I.

The general names now in use will be employed in the following pages. "Loud" for the right pedal, "soft" for the left, and "*sostenuto*" for the middle. The older masters adopted the terms "tre corde", which meant to use the loud pedal and thereby releasing the dampers from the strings, and "una corde", to shift the keys or hammers so that only one string would sound. As the modern arrangement has been perfected during the past century, it is almost beyond comprehension that such colossal works could have been composed at that period considering the instruments at their command.

The first Harpsichords and Claviers had no pedals. Later on stops were used to control the dampers of the different divisions. Afterwards pedals were attached to assist the hands in controlling the stops. The question as to who was the first to make use of these pedals is not definitely settled. Some German writers claim Herr Holefeld, while in England John Hayward, in about 1670, is said to have invented them. Until 1806 they were placed on either side of the stand, or frame supporting the instrument. A more satisfactory arrangement was perfected by Broadwood in 1783. He dampered, or stopped the strings with a strip of soft felt or fabric with one pedal (*una corde*), and raised it with the other (*tre corde*). Later each key controlled a separate damper, and the old system of shifting the keys, or dampers still remains in the Grand Pianoforte.

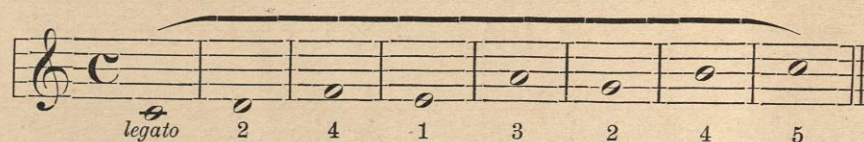
Pollini devised the Forte (loud) pedal. When that pedal is depressed all the dampers are raised from the strings allowing the partial overtones and harmonics to sound, increasing the volume of tone.

A third pedal has been added to the Grand Pianoforte called the "*Sostenuto*", or "Middle Pedal". It sustains the Bass notes from the lowest up to the middle octave.

CHAPTER II.

The function of the loud (right) pedal is to sustain the tones. By means of it one can produce a most perfect *legato*, and carry a tone, or tones over long distances when it is impossible for the fingers to reach them. At the outset we will consider the subject of *legato*. This term is defined as the process of "binding", or "blending", one tone with another. The textbooks and dictionaries give a variety of information; but, in the end the result to be desired is a binding of the tones.

If the following passage be played strict *legato* without the pedal, the tone will be pure, but there will not be that complete fullness produced by the related harmonics and overtones as when played with the pedal. Only the one string vibrates, and the only harmonics, or overtones are those of that one string:



Play it and use the Pedal with each note.



Here you have with each tone all the sympathetic tones of the whole instrument. Some very interesting physical experiments may be made under this head, but space will not permit their discussion at this time. The great aim of all pianists is to get a large, full tone; to get all the volume possible; and the correct use of the pedal is the only means of reaching that end.

Many different marks and characters have been used to indicate when the pedal should be depressed and released, such as:



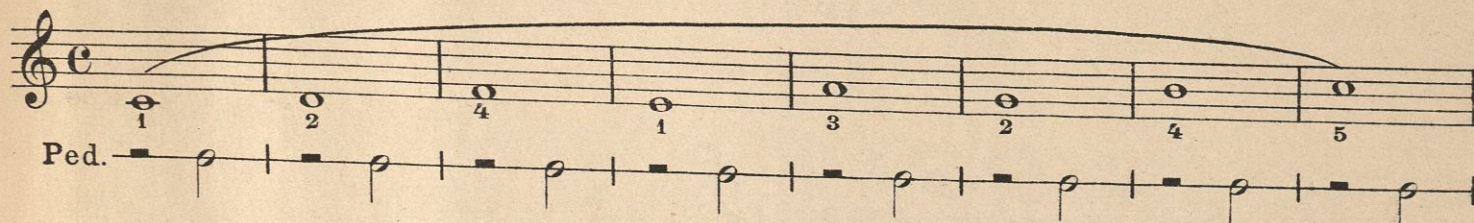
however, the most accurate is the extra line below the staff with the notes engraved in it. —



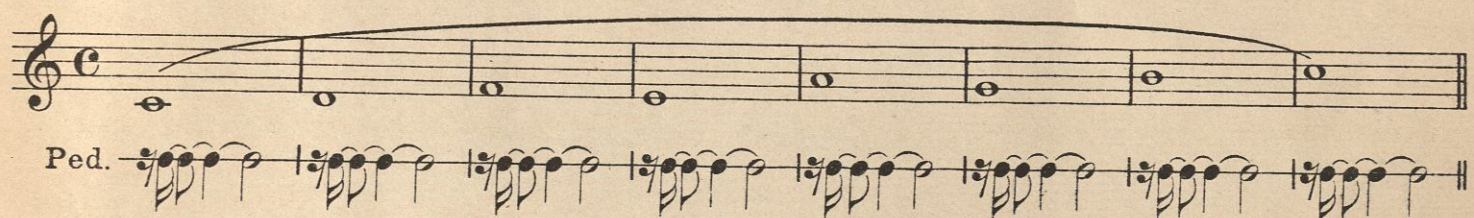
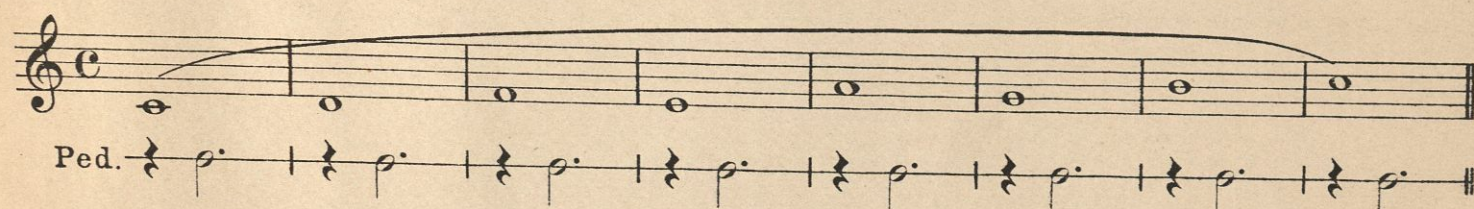
This system was proposed by Herr Hans Schmidt in 1875, and will be used throughout this work. The pedal is to be pressed down and held during the length of the note, and released at the rests.

In *legatissimo* passages the pedal is to be depressed the instant the tone vibrates fully, and the fingers should not leave the key until the pedal has caught the tone.

The syncopated movement is at first the most readily comprehended, use it generally after one half of the notes value has elapsed.

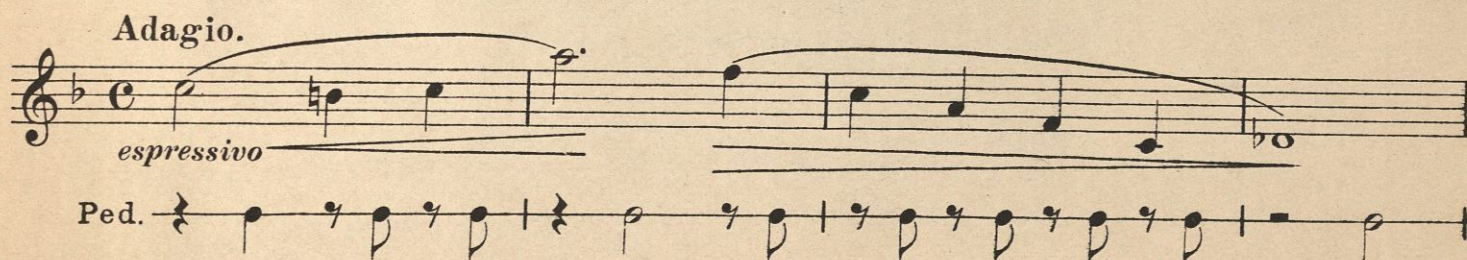


A more sustained quality may be produced as follows:



And finally until there is an almost imperceptible movement of the pedal between the notes.

Full-tone quality and clearness are the objects to be obtained. Consequently, the pedal should be changed with each note (as far as possible). Particularly so with the melody, or when notes foreign to the chord are introduced in the accompaniment.



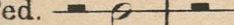
Andante.

Tempo di Valse.

[illegible]

When the melody consists of broken chords (Arpeggios) the pedal will sustain each note; but when they are to be played quickly for certain brilliant technical effects, the performer will have to determine their chord relations and general figuration.

Chord Relations and General Figuration:



The musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a common time signature 'C'. It contains four measures, each with a half note: G4, A4, B4, and C5. A slur connects the first three notes. The lower staff is labeled 'Ped.' and contains four measures, each with a half note: G3, A3, B3, and C4. A slur connects the first three notes.

The first system of the musical score for 'The Swan Song' consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a common time signature (C). It contains a melody of eighth notes: C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, F1, E1, D1, C1, B0, A0, G0, F0, E0, D0, C0, B-1, A-1, G-1, F-1, E-1, D-1, C-1, B-2, A-2, G-2, F-2, E-2, D-2, C-2, B-3, A-3, G-3, F-3, E-3, D-3, C-3, B-4, A-4, G-4, F-4, E-4, D-4, C-4, B-5, A-5, G-5, F-5, E-5, D-5, C-5, B-6, A-6, G-6, F-6, E-6, D-6, C-6, B-7, A-7, G-7, F-7, E-7, D-7, C-7, B-8, A-8, G-8, F-8, E-8, D-8, C-8, B-9, A-9, G-9, F-9, E-9, D-9, C-9, B-10, A-10, G-10, F-10, E-10, D-10, C-10, B-11, A-11, G-11, F-11, E-11, D-11, C-11, B-12, A-12, G-12, F-12, E-12, D-12, C-12, B-13, A-13, G-13, F-13, E-13, D-13, C-13, B-14, A-14, G-14, F-14, E-14, D-14, C-14, B-15, A-15, G-15, F-15, E-15, D-15, C-15, B-16, A-16, G-16, F-16, E-16, D-16, C-16, B-17, A-17, G-17, F-17, E-17, D-17, C-17, B-18, A-18, G-18, F-18, E-18, D-18, C-18, B-19, A-19, G-19, F-19, E-19, D-19, C-19, B-20, A-20, G-20, F-20, E-20, D-20, C-20, B-21, A-21, G-21, F-21, E-21, D-21, C-21, B-22, A-22, G-22, F-22, E-22, D-22, C-22, B-23, A-23, G-23, F-23, E-23, D-23, C-23, B-24, A-24, G-24, F-24, E-24, D-24, C-24, B-25, A-25, G-25, F-25, E-25, D-25, C-25, B-26, A-26, G-26, F-26, E-26, D-26, C-26, B-27, A-27, G-27, F-27, E-27, D-27, C-27, B-28, A-28, G-28, F-28, E-28, D-28, C-28, B-29, A-29, G-29, F-29, E-29, D-29, C-29, B-30, A-30, G-30, F-30, E-30, D-30, C-30, B-31, A-31, G-31, F-31, E-31, D-31, C-31, B-32, A-32, G-32, F-32, E-32, D-32, C-32, B-33, A-33, G-33, F-33, E-33, D-33, C-33, B-34, A-34, G-34, F-34, E-34, D-34, C-34, B-35, A-35, G-35, F-35, E-35, D-35, C-35, B-36, A-36, G-36, F-36, E-36, D-36, C-36, B-37, A-37, G-37, F-37, E-37, D-37, C-37, B-38, A-38, G-38, F-38, E-38, D-38, C-38, B-39, A-39, G-39, F-39, E-39, D-39, C-39, B-40, A-40, G-40, F-40, E-40, D-40, C-40, B-41, A-41, G-41, F-41, E-41, D-41, C-41, B-42, A-42, G-42, F-42, E-42, D-42, C-42, B-43, A-43, G-43, F-43, E-43, D-43, C-43, B-44, A-44, G-44, F-44, E-44, D-44, C-44, B-45, A-45, G-45, F-45, E-45, D-45, C-45, B-46, A-46, G-46, F-46, E-46, D-46, C-46, B-47, A-47, G-47, F-47, E-47, D-47, C-47, B-48, A-48, G-48, F-48, E-48, D-48, C-48, B-49, A-49, G-49, F-49, E-49, D-49, C-49, B-50, A-50, G-50, F-50, E-50, D-50, C-50, B-51, A-51, G-51, F-51, E-51, D-51, C-51, B-52, A-52, G-52, F-52, E-52, D-52, C-52, B-53, A-53, G-53, F-53, E-53, D-53, C-53, B-54, A-54, G-54, F-54, E-54, D-54, C-54, B-55, A-55, G-55, F-55, E-55, D-55, C-55, B-56, A-56, G-56, F-56, E-56, D-56, C-56, B-57, A-57, G-57, F-57, E-57, D-57, C-57, B-58, A-58, G-58, F-58, E-58, D-58, C-58, B-59, A-59, G-59, F-59, E-59, D-59, C-59, B-60, A-60, G-60, F-60, E-60, D-60, C-60, B-61, A-61, G-61, F-61, E-61, D-61, C-61, B-62, A-62, G-62, F-62, E-62, D-62, C-62, B-63, A-63, G-63, F-63, E-63, D-63, C-63, B-64, A-64, G-64, F-64, E-64, D-64, C-64, B-65, A-65, G-65, F-65, E-65, D-65, C-65, B-66, A-66, G-66, F-66, E-66, D-66, C-66, B-67, A-67, G-67, F-67, E-67, D-67, C-67, B-68, A-68, G-68, F-68, E-68, D-68, C-68, B-69, A-69, G-69, F-69, E-69, D-69, C-69, B-70, A-70, G-70, F-70, E-70, D-70, C-70, B-71, A-71, G-71, F-71, E-71, D-71, C-71, B-72, A-72, G-72, F-72, E-72, D-72, C-72, B-73, A-73, G-73, F-73, E-73, D-73, C-73, B-74, A-74, G-74, F-74, E-74, D-74, C-74, B-75, A-75, G-75, F-75, E-75, D-75, C-75, B-76, A-76, G-76, F-76, E-76, D-76, C-76, B-77, A-77, G-77, F-77, E-77, D-77, C-77, B-78, A-78, G-78, F-78, E-78, D-78, C-78, B-79, A-79, G-79, F-79, E-79, D-79, C-79, B-80, A-80, G-80, F-80, E-80, D-80, C-80, B-81, A-81, G-81, F-81, E-81, D-81, C-81, B-82, A-82, G-82, F-82, E-82, D-82, C-82, B-83, A-83, G-83, F-83, E-83, D-83, C-83, B-84, A-84, G-84, F-84, E-84, D-84, C-84, B-85, A-85, G-85, F-85, E-85, D-85, C-85, B-86, A-86, G-86, F-86, E-86, D-86, C-86, B-87, A-87, G-87, F-87, E-87, D-87, C-87, B-88, A-88, G-88, F-88, E-88, D-88, C-88, B-89, A-89, G-89, F-89, E-89, D-89, C-89, B-90, A-90, G-90, F-90, E-90, D-90, C-90, B-91, A-91, G-91, F-91, E-91, D-91, C-91, B-92, A-92, G-92, F-92, E-92, D-92, C-92, B-93, A-93, G-93, F-93, E-93, D-93, C-93, B-94, A-94, G-94, F-94, E-94, D-94, C-94, B-95, A-95, G-95, F-95, E-95, D-95, C-95, B-96, A-96, G-96, F-96, E-96, D-96, C-96, B-97, A-97, G-97, F-97, E-97, D-97, C-97, B-98, A-98, G-98, F-98, E-98, D-98, C-98, B-99, A-99, G-99, F-99, E-99, D-99, C-99, B-100, A-100, G-100, F-100, E-100, D-100, C-100, B-101, A-101, G-101, F-101, E-101, D-101, C-101, B-102, A-102, G-102, F-102, E-102, D-102, C-102, B-103, A-103, G-103, F-103, E-103, D-103, C-103, B-104, A-104, G-104, F-104, E-104, D-104, C-104, B-105, A-105, G-105, F-105, E-105, D-105, C-105, B-106, A-106, G-106, F-106, E-106, D-106, C-106, B-107, A-107, G-107, F-107, E-107, D-107, C-107, B-108, A-108, G-108, F-108, E-108, D-108, C-108, B-109, A-109, G-109, F-109, E-109, D-109, C-109, B-110, A-110, G-110, F-110, E-110, D-110, C-110, B-111, A-111, G-111, F-111, E-111, D-111, C-111, B-112, A-112, G-112, F-112, E-112, D-112, C-1

Vivace.

Vivace.

The musical score is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Vivace.' The melody consists of three measures, each containing a triplet of eighth notes followed by a quarter note. The first measure has fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4 for the triplet and 2, 3, 5 for the quarter note. The second measure has fingerings 1, 2, 4, 1 for the triplet and 1, 2, 4, 1 for the quarter note. The third measure has fingerings 1, 2, 4, 1 for the triplet and 1, 2, 4, 1 for the quarter note. The piano part, labeled 'Ped.', is written on a separate staff below the main staff and consists of three measures, each containing a half note. The first measure has a fermata over the note, and the second measure has a fermata over the note. The third measure has a fermata over the note and a double bar line.

Allegro brillante.

Allegro brillante.

The musical score is written on two staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a common time signature (C). It begins with a piano (p) dynamic marking. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, some beamed together. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a single-note accompaniment. The piece ends with a double bar line.

The musical score for 'Pavane' by Debussy features a rapid ascending scale in the right hand and a descending scale in the left hand. The right hand part is marked 'rapido' and includes fingerings: 1, 2, 4, 1, 2, 4, 1, 2, 4. The left hand part includes fingerings: 5, 4, 3, 1. A 'Ped.' marking is present at the bottom of the page.

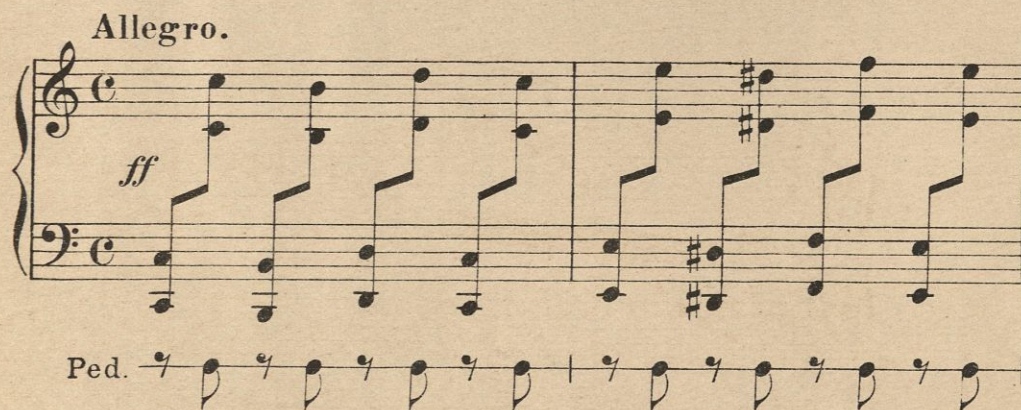
Melodies consisting of Octaves, when the notes are to be played slowly and close together, the substitution of the fingers will be found practical.



Where the legato cannot be produced by fingers, then the pedal must be used.



In brilliant and bravura passages the performer must use judgment as regards the figuration and harmonic design.

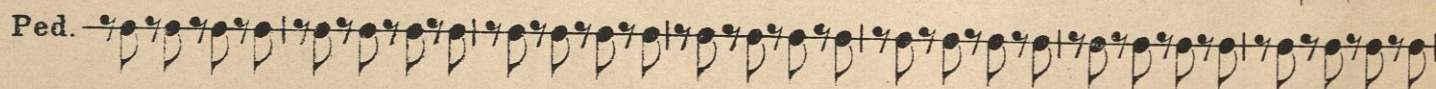
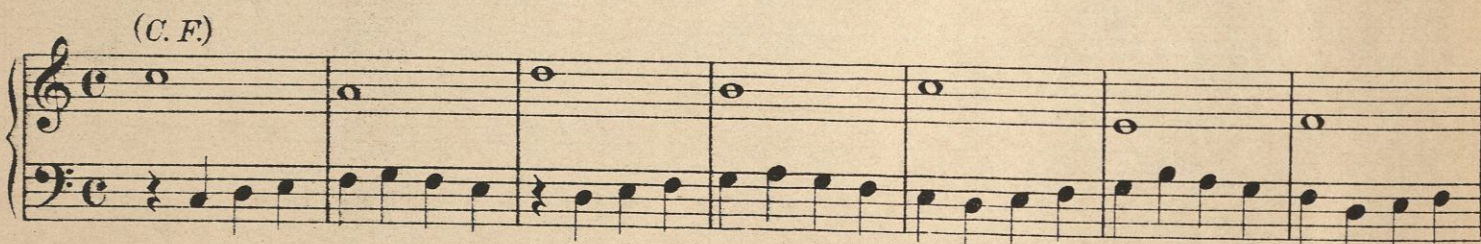
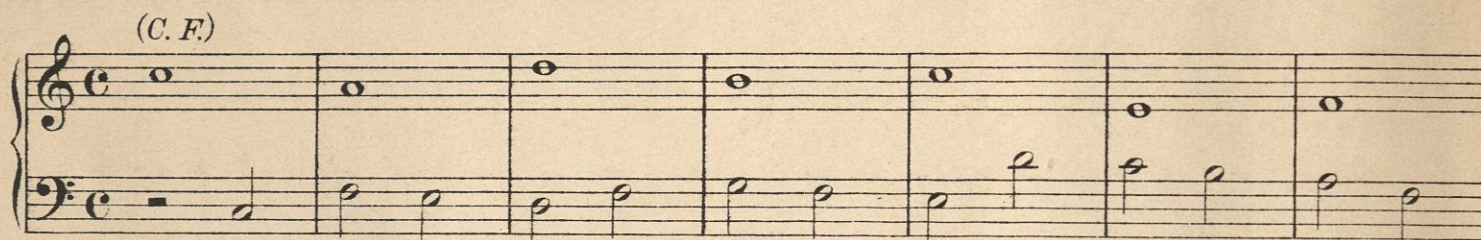
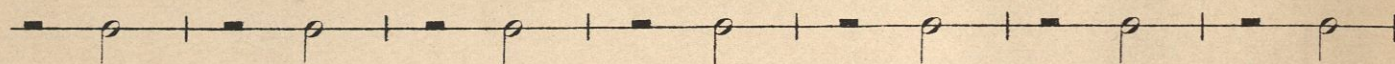
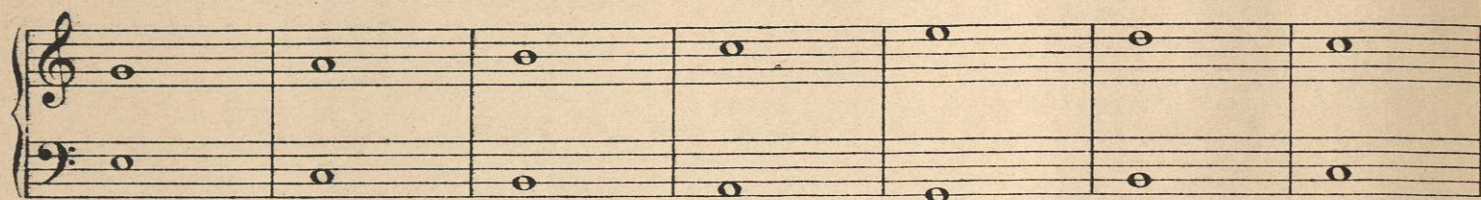
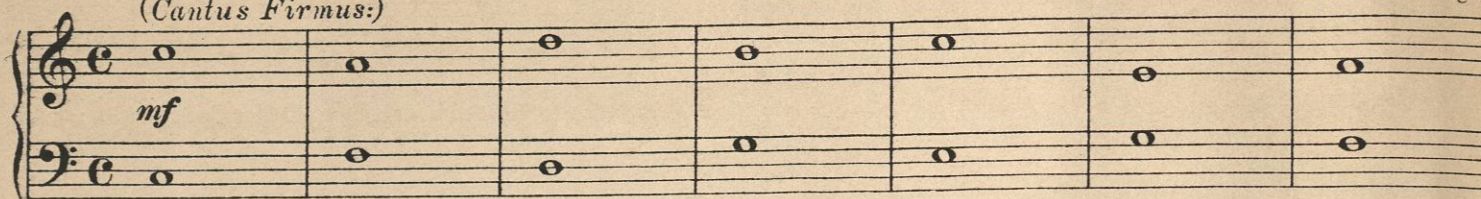


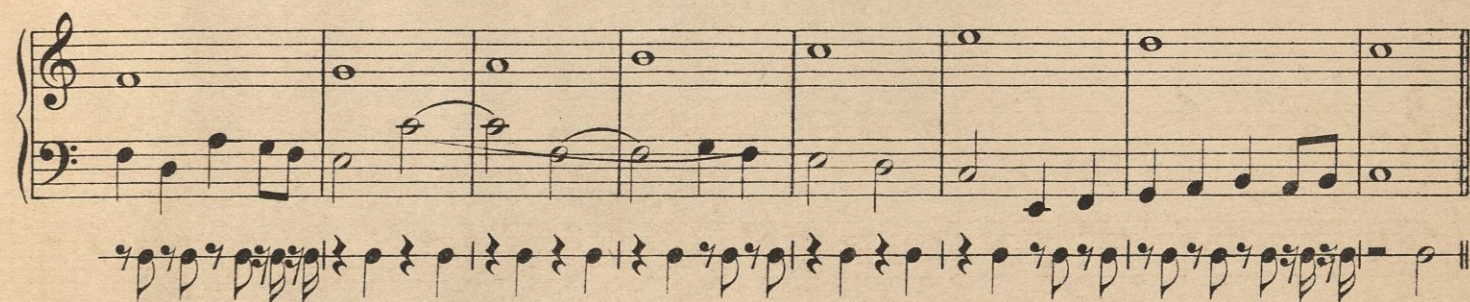
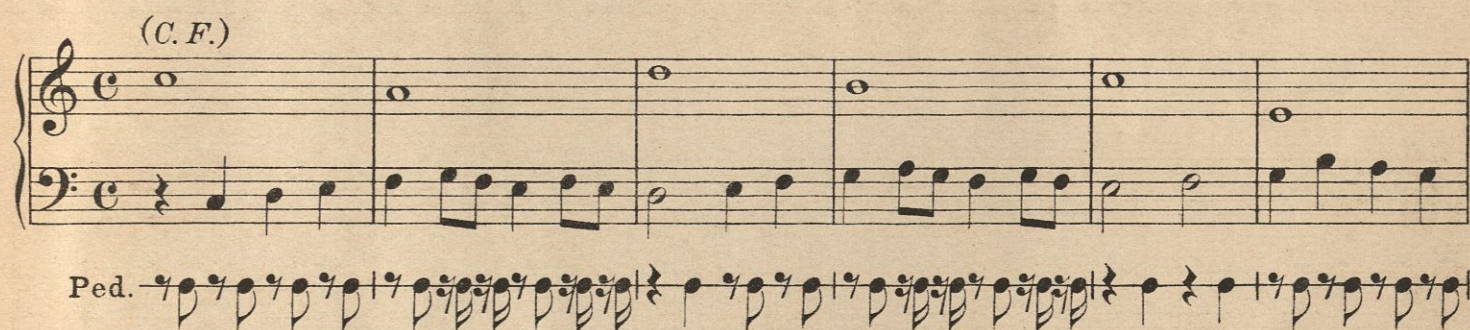
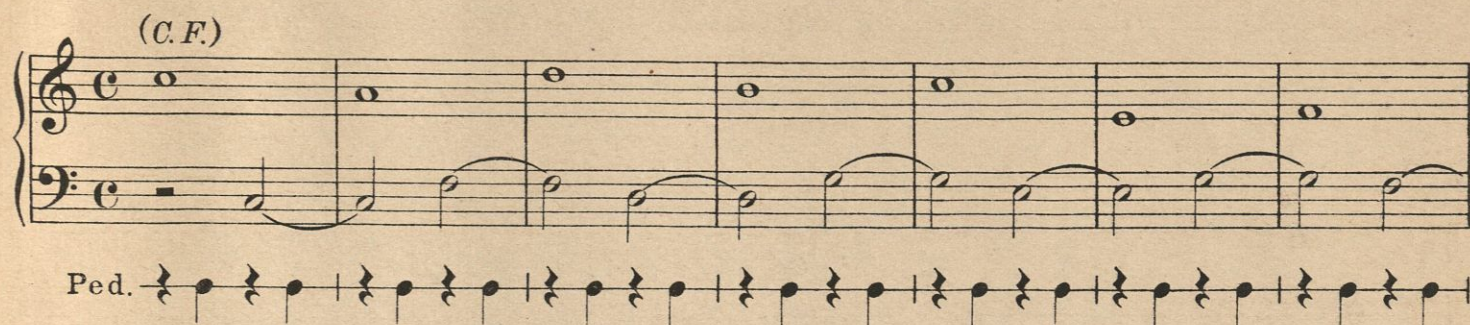
The string quartette and organ furnish the best means of training the ear to hear each part distinctly. In playing chorals or music in from two to four parts, the pedal should be changed with each note.

Moderato.

(*Cantus Firmus*.)

Dr. J. F. Bridge.





Young students are usually advised to use the pedal with each change in the Harmony. This, in most instances is permissible, but the subject admits of much discussion from many view-points:

Reiterated chords in the same position when played rapidly may have the same pedal;

Allegro.

however, in slow movement it is well to change it with each chord, so as to eradicate the sympathetic harmonies which are constantly sounding.

Fr. Chopin (1809-1849), Op. 28.

Largo.

In the following choral the notes are of equal value.

Moderato.

Thomas Tallis.

Observe the passing notes in the soprano below:

Andante religioso.

F. Mendelssohn.

Ped.

Passing notes in the Alto:

Moderato.

J. B. Dykes.

Ped.

Passing notes in the Tenor:

J. Barnby.

Moderato.

The image displays a page from a musical score for 'The Merry Widow' by Franz Lehár. The page is divided into two systems, each containing a piano introduction and a waltz section.

System 1:

- Tempo:** Moderato.
- Key Signature:** B-flat major (two flats).
- Time Signature:** Common time (C).
- Instrumentation:** Piano (mf).
- Introduction:** The piano introduction consists of a series of chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand, creating a steady harmonic foundation.
- Waltz Section:** The waltz section begins with a 'Ped.' (pedal) marking. It features a continuous eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a melody in the right hand, characteristic of a waltz rhythm.

System 2:

- Continuation:** This system continues the waltz section from the first system, maintaining the same tempo and key signature.
- Structure:** It follows the same pattern of a piano introduction followed by a waltz section with a continuous eighth-note bass line and a melodic right hand.

Passing notes in the Bass:

Old French Melody.

Andante.

Andante.

mf

Ped.

Old French Melody

The image shows a musical score for a piece titled "Old French Melody". The tempo is marked "Andante." and the dynamic is "mf". The score is written for piano and includes a pedal line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The score consists of two systems. Each system has a piano accompaniment with a treble and bass staff, and a single-staff pedal line. The piano part features a melody in the treble staff and a harmonic accompaniment in the bass staff. The pedal line is marked "Ped." and consists of a continuous eighth-note pattern. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Passing notes in all the voices:

Lyra Davidica, 1708.

Maestoso.

[illegible]

F. Chopin, Op. 37 N°1.

Andante sostenuto.

Execution.

sotto voce
p legato

Ped.

Chapter III.

Tones may be sustained by the pedal when rests occur in the music, and are usually indicated as such by the composer.

1 2 4 1 3 2 4 5

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

p

Ped.

Allegro.

ff

Ped.

The following study will be of great technical value, and also assist one in prolonging individual notes of the chord. After striking the chord hold the note with the finger until the pedal has caught it.

Musical notation for the first system of 'Lullaby'. The top staff is in treble clef with a common time signature (C). It contains four measures of music, each starting with a half note followed by a quarter note. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains four measures of music, each starting with a half note followed by a quarter note. The word 'Ped.' is written below the first measure of the bottom staff.

Chapter IV.

The soft pedal on the Grand Pianoforte lessens the number of strings, on upright instruments the length of the hammer stroke is shortened; while on square instruments the impact is softened by interposing a strip of felt or some soft material. This pedal is used in playing passages marked *p*, *Piano*, or *pp*, *Pianissimo*. There is no special mark or character to designate its use other than the above mentioned terms. Beethoven and contemporary writers have inserted *con sordino*, or *una corde*, in their works, so this pedal is used for that effect.

Allegro. L. v. Beethoven.

una corda
sempre dolce
cantabile

sempre legato

Recitativo più adagio.

una corda

Andante.

L. v. Beethoven.

Ped.

Lento. ($\text{♩} = 54$)

R. Wagner.

una corda
ppp

ppp

Ped.

Chapter V.

17

The Sostenuto (middle) pedal on the Grand Pianoforte sustains all the lower Bass Tones up to the middle octave. Modern composers have used it quite extensively. The mark used is the straight line ———. The pedal is to be depressed after the note has been struck and held as long as the line continues.

Andante.

p

Ped. — — — — —

Moderato.

pp

Ped. — — — — —

Andante.

p

rit. - - -

Ped. — — — — —

Allegro brillante.

R. Schumann.

Ped. — — — — —

Andante sostenuto.

C. Saint-Saëns.

R.H.

L.H.

Ped.

Chapter VI.

f

Ped.

The above illustration shows how certain tones in a chord may be retained after the effect of the arpeggio has been released. Press down notes in the brackets without sounding them, then let the pedal up. These have been termed *echo* or *phantom* chords.

P4001

